

Mission Based Budgeting Funded by Generosity

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we exploring moving to a Mission Based model of funding and away from an Assessment Based model of funding?

We are exploring this new method of budget planning and funding of the mission center budget to be more consistent with our understanding of tithing which is one of generosity not taxation.

What are the different steps involved in the Mission Based Budgeting Process?

- **Step 1 Dialogue process – this involves a visit to each congregation in the mission center. During these visits congregations will be asked to articulate what they sense God is calling them to and what they need to respond to this call.**
- **Step 2 Budget Planning – As data accumulates from the different congregational visits the mission center leadership will begin to plan a Mission Based budget that attempts to address the needs of the congregations identified in the dialogue process.**
- **Step 3 Funding Invitation – It is our hope that congregations will be visited again in the months of August and September and presented with the Mission Based-Budget. The congregation will be asked how much they are able to pledge towards funding the Mission Based-Budget.**

What is the timeline for the different steps of the Mission Based Budgeting process?

We hope to accomplish most of the dialogue visits before reunion season begins, but to ensure as broad as participation as possible dialogue sessions maybe held at reunions. The budget planning process will begin simultaneously with dialogue process. Finally, the congregations will be presented with the Mission Based Budget by the beginning of August with all financial pledges accounted for by the middle of September.

Does the currently volatility in the stock market and large reduction in the Mission Center's investment earnings and principle impact the budget?

Yes. The Mission Center Investments sustained losses in excess of 26% in 2008 and this directly impacts our ability to fund mission. Additionally, Mission Center Leadership is currently working to sell Mission Center

properties in Missoula, MT and Colville, WA to increase Mission Center reserves.

How will the data collected from the dialogue process be analyzed and recorded?

After the dialogue process your facilitator will send the collected notes to the Mission Center Office where your thoughts will be posted on the Inland West Mission Center website (www.cofchrist-iwest.org). It is important that you review the information posted on the web to make sure that your thoughts are accurately captured.

Will there only be one Mission Based Budget presented to the congregations to fund?

No. The Mission Center's intention is to develop several different budgets (i.e. bare bones, optimal, visionary) illustrating what is possible to accomplish with different levels of funding. The amount of funding pledges received combined with a supplement from mission center investments will determine which level of budget will be presented to the Mission Center Conference for final approval.

Will any guidance be given as to what amount is an appropriate amount for a congregation to pledge?

Yes. The Mission Center Financial Officer will provide a couple of different forms of guidance. For example, some congregations may wish to pledge using the existing assessment formula and that information will be provided to congregations. Some congregations may wish to incarnate an example of tithing and dedicate 10% of all contributions to support the mission center budget. The Mission Center Financial Officer will also provide this information.

What if my congregation chooses to not make a pledge to the Mission Based Budget?

An underlying assumption is that congregations want to be engaged in mission and that the sum of the congregations in a mission center is stronger than each individual congregation. If a congregation chooses not to contribute the Mission Based Budget, they will receive a visit from the Mission Center President and/or Financial Officer to explore possible disconnects and reasons for not contributing to the budget.

Will this budget effect the distribution or number of the Inland West Mission Center staff?

Human resource decisions regarding staff distribution and designation are the responsibility of the Mission Center President. The number of persons able to be employed by the mission center is dependent on a number of factors including available World Church funding, levels of investment income, available congregational support, and the needs of the mission center.

Are the operations and funding of campgrounds included in this process?

No. Multiple campground associations exist within the mission center. Each campground association has its own unique set of issues and opportunities that are best dealt with individually.

What if the amount of pledges fall short of the Mission Based Budget?

The Mission Center President and Financial Officer will make congregational leaders aware of the short fall and solicit additional pledges. If the amount of pledges still falls short of the proposed budget, the budget will be reduced and brought in balance with the congregational pledges.